

POLK COUNTY
March 16, 2009
7:00 PM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice
Womack Building
Columbus, N.C.

PRESENT: Chairperson Cindy Walker, Vice-Chairperson Warren Watson, Commissioners Gasperson, McDermott, Melton. Also in attendance County Manager, Ryan Whitson, County Attorney Tom Hix, Clerk to the Board, Anne Britton, media, staff and citizens.

1. Call to Order – Cindy Walker, Chairperson.
2. Invocation – Rev. Ralph Kuether, Chaplain, Tryon Estates.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Melton welcomed Garry Fisher. He has resided in Tryon for 34 years with his wife, Carolyn. They have two children, Jeanette and Jason. Mr. Fisher served in the United States Army for four years and was wounded in combat twice in Vietnam. He was awarded two PurpleHearts, the Bronze Star and the Silver Star. He has been the Commander of Tryon VFW Post 4505 for eight years and Commander of NC District 16 for two years.
4. Public Hearing – Call to Order – Chairperson Walker. To hear public comments on the proposed 09/10 Community Transportation Program Application. Jewell Carswell, Director, was present to answer questions. There were no public comments. After a short discussion, Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to close the hearing, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Regular Board of Commissioner minutes for March 2, 2009. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Approval of Agenda – You may add/delete an item from the agenda at this time. There were no additions or deletions.
7. Community Transportation Program Resolution – Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
8. Ellen Harris, Harris Architects, Bid award for the Senior Recreation Center project. Ms. Harris recommended the bid be awarded to the low bidder -TNN Construction. Commissioner Melton had questions concerning the two low

bidders, TNN and A&G. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Ms. Harris would request further information from both low bidders and report back to the April 6, 2009 Board of Commissioner meeting. The low bids are in the \$450,000 to \$460,000 range.

9. Polk County Board of Education – Bill Miller, Superintendent, presented the school system’s budget request for FY 09/10 and discussed the request for PSBCF (Public School Building Capital Fund) money to make the September QZAB loan repayment. Mr. Miller assured the Board that the Board of Education was not asking for any increase from the County, only to fund their local budget at the 2008-2009 level. They asked that the Capital funds be transferred to the Current Expense, and that the existing Lottery Funds pay the QZAB payment. He affirmed that these requests could change, and they will come back with the formal budget at a later date. Commissioner Melton made a request for the existing Lottery Funds to pay the QZAB, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
10. Holland Consulting – Dale Holland presented the monthly update on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan. Further information can be obtained from the Planning Department and/or the Polk County website. The completed draft sections are in the Library and the Planning Department. Jim Carson, Chairman of the Advisory Board, made a few comments, thanked the Planning Board staff, Cathy Ruth and Kristy Tipton, and Dale Holland, for their support and work on the Plan. He invited all to attend the meetings.
11. Council on Aging – Laura Lynch, Chairperson, and Dick Belthoff, Treasurer, presented the Commissioners with a check for \$75,000 for the Senior Recreation Facility. Chairperson Walker accepted the check and thanked the Council. She pointed out how many good things can happen when Boards work together for the good.
12. Landon Davidson, Regional Supervisor, Aquifer Protection Section of the NC Division of Water Quality, made a presentation on the well study/stream gauge with a PowerPoint presentation which is on file. Bill Hazell, United States Geological Survey, was also present and made recommendations. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the USGS to place a stream gauge on the Green River. The USGS could contribute \$5,000 toward the first year total, estimated at approximately \$36,000. Mr. Hazell also estimated annual costs to the County, after the first year, would be \$14,000. He will send a proposal to the County Manager this week.
13. Dave Herbert of the Foothills Chamber of Commerce presented the Chamber’s “Buy Local Campaign”. The campaign will be rolled out in 30 days and he requested support and a resolution from the Board. The initiative of the campaign is to help Carolina Foothills Chamber members survive the economic downturn by encouraging Foothills consumers to consider member

businesses as their first choice when shopping. He explained that the definition of local is Landrum, Gowensville, Columbus, Saluda and Tryon. Commissioner Gasperson made a motion that the Board of Commissioners support the Think-Local, Buy-Local campaign with a written resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously. The resolution will be presented at the April 6, 2009, Board of Commissioner meeting.

14. Criminal Justice Partnership Program Grant (CJPP) FY 09/10 (Budget and Budget Summary attached). Cheryl Modlin, NC Department of Corrections Judicial District Manager, presented this year's proposal. This year's allotment is \$47,998 for Polk County, with no County match. All based on reimbursements. Due to the economy, Ms. Modlin said this is subject to be cut by the State. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the CJPP Program Grant application, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
15. Isothermal Regional Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan for approval. This plan was approved by the Transportation Advisory Board and needs to be approved by the Board in order to apply for grants (only for new services) in the future. Jewell Carswell, Director of Transportation, and Josh King, Isothermal Planning and Development Commission, were present. Commissioner Melton made a motion for go forward with the plan, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
16. Tax Refund Request – Commissioner Melton made a request to refund \$3,629.85 of February refunds, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
17. Budget Amendments – (1) BA #15 Polk County Schools \$59,445 to increase revenue and expense for Lottery proceeds appropriated for the purpose of replacing the boiler at Polk Central School. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve BA #15, seconded by Vice-Chairman Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

(2) Amended Project Budget Ordinance County-Wide Water Engineering Study/Intake Project. Commissioner Melton approved the increases up to \$142,486, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson, and the motion carried unanimously.

(3) Monthly Financial Report - Sandra Hughes, Finance Officer, presented the report and answered questions. The full report is on file.
18. County Manager's Report – (1) Maintenance of Effort funds request for \$991.00 by Families Together, Inc. of the Western Highlands Network.

Commissioner McDermott made a motion to grant the request, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson, and the motion carried unanimously.

(2) Lease Agreement – Polk County Courthouse Annex A – This lease has been reviewed by Attorney Hix. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the lease, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

(3) Western Highlands Network's Fiscal Monitoring Report for the 2009 fiscal year 2nd quarter ending December 31, 2008. State Law (H2077) requires this report be provided to the Board of Commissioners. County Manager Ryan Whitson read the information to the board.

(4) First Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement for Lake Adger. This agreement has been reviewed by Attorney Clarke. This allows the closing to be extended for 90 days. Commissioner Melton made a motion to the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

19. Board Vacancies – (Vote) Tryon Planning & Zoning Board (BOC has one appointment) – 1 vacancy, 1 application, Litchfield Carpenter; Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Advisory Board – 2 vacancies, 2 applications, Matthew Pohsweg, Jr., and Kipp McIntyre. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve both applications, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

20. Citizens for Non-Agenda Items. There were none.
21. Commissioner Comments. All Commissioners thanked the Council on Aging for their support and check for the Senior Recreation Facility.
22. Commissioner Melton made a motion to go into Closed Session – Attorney-Client privilege, G.S.143.318 (a) (2), Woodland Mills water line easement, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
23. Return to Open Session. There was no action taken.
24. Adjourn.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anne Britton
Clerk to the Board

Cindy Walker
Chairperson